



North American Interstate Weather Modification Council

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"Facilitating the exchange of interstate/interprovincial atmospheric resource management information."

Memorandum

To: California Department of Water Resources – Attention John Andrew
From: North American Interstate Weather Modification Council
Re: California Water Plan Update – Chapter 14 Precipitation Enhancement

The North American Interstate Weather Modification Council (NAIWMC) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization of regulatory agencies, sponsoring organizations, and research institutions involved in atmospheric water resource management technology, commonly known as weather modification or cloud seeding. The NAIWMC exists to facilitate the free exchange of information regarding cloud seeding research and operations in North America. The current membership of the Council includes representatives from North Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California, all states which have active operational weather modification programs.

The NAIWMC would like to congratulate the California Department of Water Resources for including Precipitation Enhancement as a resource management strategy in its Water Plan Update 2005. The description in Chapter 14 of the Plan provides a concise history of cloud seeding activity in California, includes a discussion of the potential benefits that incorporates recent research as well as past evaluations, and gives an honest assessment of environmental and scientific issues that still need to be addressed. The discussion of benefits is not made to sound overly optimistic, but even when conservative enhancement estimates are used the strategy of cloud seeding, as an additional water resource, stands out as a viable option. The inclusion of this Chapter in the overall water plan can only be viewed as positive and innovative by DWR.

The recommendations in the Water Plan for increases in precipitation enhancement activities in California closely follow those that have been advocated by the NAIWMC. The call for a federally supported research program also echoes the main recommendation of the 2003 National Research Council report entitled "Critical Issues in Weather Modification Research". The recommendation to investigate the potential to augment Colorado River flow by cloud seeding activities has been taken up by the seven basin states and has been formally requested to be included in the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation water management strategy for the Colorado River. The support of DWR in the western states' efforts to gain research support from a federal agency like USBR or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is welcomed.

Arlen Huggins
Desert Research Institute, Reno, NV
Arlen.Huggins@dri.edu
NAIWMC Chair

Joe Busto
Colorado Water Conservation Board, Denver, CO
Joe.Busto@dwr.state.co.us
NAIWMC Vice Chair